

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With this amendment, claims 2, 3 and 16-28 are pending. Claims 2, 3, 21 and 28 are allowed. For convenience, the Examiner's rejections are addressed in the order presented in a March 22, 2006, Office Action.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 16-20, 22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Plowman *et al.*, US Patent No. 6,656,716 ('716 patent). In order to expedite prosecution, claims 16 and 22 are amended to remove reference to SEQ ID NO:6. Claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form. These amendments add no new matter.

In view of the amendments listed above, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments
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